A: Important events, staff news, and donations

a. Yanapuma Spanish School

i. In August teacher Betty Benitez left to complete her Masters’ thesis. She is studying the question of gender in Spanish teaching, basing her thesis on research carried out through the school.

ii. On 20 February thieves stole $5000 worth of computers and equipment from our office.

iii. In December we designed several new programs for the school for 2009.
   1. The Medical Spanish Program
   2. Study and Travel programs that are modular one-week programs visiting different areas of the country.
   3. Online Spanish classes, for those who cannot come to Ecuador, or those who will come later on but want to get a head start on their Spanish learning.
   4. The Gateway to Latin America Program, that had been designed much earlier in the year, but not launched due to lack of time and personnel to work on it.
   5. The Study in an Indigenous Community program was also redesigned to be a one-week modular course that can combine several communities or combine with the Study and Travel program.

b. Yanapuma Foundation

Important Events

- In January 2008 we began to work with George Fletcher, a biologist working in conservation and sustainable agriculture, in Caimito on the Pacific Coast, sending the first volunteer groups. These carried on throughout the year.

- In February we decided reluctantly to withdraw from working with the community of Wachimak due to seemingly irresolvable differences in the community and the threat that this may pose to our staff and volunteers

- Eos Ecuador, a partner travel agency was launched in March with the two aims of selling community-based tourism and donating profits to the work of Yanapuma.

- Two interns developed an English Course for teaching in small schools using culturally appropriate pictures and materials

- Two interns, Matthew Tasker and Linda Westberg began a project to develop teaching materials for Kichwa, incorporating interactive materials. The project was adopted by the National Bilingual and Education authorities who requested four books and sets of materials and pledged to print 64,000 copies by April

- Genealogy study carried out by intern Andrea Ochoa

- Nutritional study carried out in Bua by Janine de Zeeuw, a Dutch student

-April we got set of draft statutes written for the legalization of indigenous communities and projects through CODENPE (Consejo de Nacionalidades y Pueblos del Ecuador)

-May onwards: A group of UK volunteers working in Puca Chicta built a chicken coop and run and stocked it with baby chicks and feed for a women’s agricultural cooperative in the village. A second group built a new canteen for the school.

-21st June Giovanny took a group of Tsa’chila farmers to Finca Sarita to see what organic production looks like. This event really kick-started their interest and led to a greater commitment from them.
- In July 3 school groups from the UK worked in Bua, re-roofing the school kitchen, building speed bumps on the main road to slow down traffic, and building bridges and maintaining trails in the cultural center.

- Five engineers from Engineers Without Borders – Portland, Oregon chapter came to work on the ecotoilets for Bua school. They brought with them $4000 for project materials.

- At the end of October we withdrew a little from actual project work once the ecotoilets in Bua were finished, to focus on developing our internal structure and processes in order to be better able to carry out our work in the communities.

- 1st of September we celebrated our 2nd Birthday

- The work started by Pascal Fassler and Cliff Jones last year and continued this year by Tatiana Espinosa and Lily Chestnut, to make a map of Bua using GPS was finally finished on 30 October after 3 days walking around the very limits of the community to see if the original boundaries are still intact.

- The Kichwa teaching project “Mushuk Muyu” received a great reception at a meeting held to launch it among teachers and officials. The office of Bilingual Education pledged to print 64000 copies of the books to distribute to schools throughout the sierra.

- On 5th of December the ecotoilets in Bua were inaugurated with a day of demonstrating their use to the children and teaching them how to use and maintain them, including a puppet show on environmental themes.

- A plan was set up by Giovanny in Bua to create a 2 hectare demonstration plot to begin production of organic cacao.

**Staff/Intern News**

- Stephen Barnes joined Yanapuma as an intern in January, working with the LEAP groups. Subsequently we hired him full time in April and he took over from Janneke Robbe when she left.

- Fran Henry joined us as an intern in February, managing the LEAP groups. Starting in January 2009 she became a paid member of staff.

- In August, Jane Higgins from Australia joined us for several months to start developing our “Volunteer Ecuador” program. She traveled to various parts of Ecuador seeking out reliable and worthwhile projects that we can recommend to international volunteers.

- Shanti Freitas joined us as a volunteer in August, working with volunteers, later to become a member of staff in 2009.

- Maria Marone, who had volunteered in Bua the previous year, returned to Bua to work some more with the school and to prepare grants for future projects in Bua and the sierra community of Quisapincha.

- Kathryn Bawden joined us in July to begin writing grant applications.

- Kyle Muther, an intern from 2007, returned to work with Yanapuma full-time as Projects Coordinator after finishing his Masters at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

- At the end of October Marc Julmisse a nursing graduate from Los Angeles joined us to work in Estero de Plátano for 6 months on health issues and surveying the community.

- Paula Brown, a pediatric dietician from the UK joined us to work in Bua on children’s nutrition and health. She produced a report that will be of great value in future work at the health promotion center there. She also investigated all the local resources available to improve diet in Bua.

- Giovanny Toapanta starts working as Yanapuma’s resident agricultural expert in Bua

- Janneke Robbe joined our staff as Volunteer Coordinator in February. She worked until July when she had to return to Holland.
Donations

- Christmas Fundraiser raised $1400 which was spent on school furniture and materials for Abraham Calazacon school in Bua

- $500 in books and materials donated to Wachimak school in February

- A donation of $3050 from the Mary Bruton Open Door Montessori School in Ireland was split between the Niñez y Vida projects in Quito and the daycare center run by Christina Fletcher in Caimito to begin construction of a new building for the center.

- In June we received a pledge of funding from Sotogrande International school in Spain of up to $12000 per year for various projects

- In July we received a donation of nearly $13000 from Meander school in Holland. This is destined for renovation of a building for use as a health promotion center in Bua as well as training locals in various aspects of health and well-being.

- In July we also received an $800 donation from two former students, Brian Zinn and Pauline Smits. Half was spent in Bua and the rest in Estero de Plátano.

- In December we launched our annual Christmas appeal, this year to provide scholarships to the children of Estero de Plátano to study at secondary level.

- In November and December an anonymous donor sent us $5000, to be used for organizational infrastructure and capacity building for the foundation.

B: Current Staff and Founders

Andy Kirby, Founder and Executive Director
Azalia Cruz, Founder and Project Director
Maria Cabrera, Founder and Administrator
Elizabeth Garofalo, Founder and Treasurer
David de la Houssaye, Founder
Vinicio Quinchiguango, Founder and Social Director

Stephan Barnes, Director of Volunteer Programs
Shanti Freitas, Coordinator of Volunteer Ecuador
Fran Henry, Volunteer Group Leader
Kyle Muther, Coordinator of Project Development
Giovanni Pauta, Director of Agricultural Program

Edison Rendón, Teacher and Academic Coordinator
Caterine Vera, Teacher and Program Development
Zulma Palacios, Teacher and Program Development
William Fustillos, Office Assistant
Sonia Bayas, Accountant

C: Partner List

Partners of the Americas (USA)
Earth Conservation (Poland)
Sotogrande International School (Spain)
Engineers Without Borders (Oregon, USA)
Fundacion Furare (Ecuador)
Fundacion Cabo San Francisco (Ecuador)
EcoSan (Ecuador)
Thinking Beyond Borders (USA)
The Leap (UK)
Outlook Expeditions (UK)

Thank you!
From all of us at Yanapuma we thank you for your continued support towards the realization of our objectives.

We wish you a safe and prosperous year.

Stay in contact as the Yanapuma Community grows!